



National Park Service  
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
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## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

### Lodge Prescribed Fire: Continuing the Efforts to Keep Grant Grove a Fire-Adapted Human Community

Fire crews completed the 22-acre Lodge Prescribed Fire this fall. This unit is adjacent to the John Muir Lodge. This project provides critical fuels reduction next to the lodge and for the Grant Grove area. Additionally, beautiful fire effects were observed.

This project is one in a series of concerted steps that fire managers have taken over the past 15 years to reduce hazardous fuels around Grant Grove to protect this community from unwanted fire. Previous mechanical thinning and prescribed fires have strategically reduced fuels around this developed area.

This unit had no recorded fire history; therefore it was considered a restoration burn. This means that fire was being introduced here after more than 100 years of fire exclusion. This created an unnaturally dense amount of fuels that had accumulated in the absence of the naturally-cycling fire regime of every 10-15 years. Approximately 60% of the dead and downed fuels were consumed by the fire.

The prescribed fire consumed these fuels under favorable conditions. This reduced the risk of an unwanted fire during hotter, drier conditions that could threaten the developed areas in Grant Grove.



*Top: Fire crews monitor a burning stump near employee housing at the John Muir Lodge.*


*Bottom: Fire crews pre-treat wooden structures with water and foam as an additional measure of structure protection on the Lodge Prescribed Fire.*

*NPS photos*

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Thoughtful ignition techniques and cooler conditions re-created a natural, lower-intensity fire for the best ecological effects as well. This area should see increased bio-diversity in plant and animal life in the upcoming years. Wildflowers and other plants will thrive here nourished by ash. They will gather more sunlight in open spaces created by fire. Wildlife will be drawn here by these rich food sources.

Extensive outreach to the John Muir Lodge's guests and to the employees who worked there helped people plan their vacations around this event. Many visitors enjoyed the opportunity to watch the deliberate fire operations from the lodge grounds.

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